

accelerate the pace of scheduled judicial confirmations before the Senate adjourns in October.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES, ACCOUNTABILITY, TRAINING, (AND EDUCATION) SERVICES (COATS) ACT

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a colleague who serves with me on the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources and on the Armed Services Committee. This morning, at the Labor Committee's mark-up of S. 2206, the Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998, I offered an Amendment to rename the legislation after the author of the bill, Senator DAN COATS of Indiana, which the Committee approved unanimously. As you know, Senator COATS will retire at the end of this Congress after serving in the Senate since 1988. Senator KENNEDY, Senator DODD, and Senator JEFFORDS, Chairman of the Committee, joined me in offering the Amendment.

Senator JEFFORDS renamed the legislation the "COATS" Act—the Community Opportunities, Accountability, Training, (and Education) Services Act. S. 2206 reauthorizes and makes improvements to the Head Start program, the Community Services Block Grant program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and it creates the new Assets for Independence Act.

In the past, legislation has often been identified by "legislative shorthand"—identifying legislation by the author instead of by the title. This began in the late nineteenth century with tariff bills named after either the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee or the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, or whichever body would report and pass the legislation first. One example is the 1890 McKinley Tariff legislation, named after Congressman William McKinley, then Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and later President of the United States.

In the twentieth century, naming legislation after a Senator became more commonplace and lent legislative standing and prestige to both the bill and to its author. For instance, in 1935, the Wagner Labor Act was named after Senator Robert Wagner from New York. Another Labor bill in 1947, the Taft-Hartley Act, was named after Senator Robert Taft from Ohio.

Today, however, it is not as easy or as common to have a Senator's name formally placed on a bill. Only in cases of special recognition for service, or to honor an accomplishment is this done. Throughout his Senate career, Senator COATS has been recognized and identified as a leader on issues dealing with children and families. It is an honor for me along with Senator KENNEDY, Senator JEFFORDS, and Senator DODD to suggest renaming S. 2206 the COATS Act, and I am pleased the Labor Committee unanimously agreed. I cannot

think of a finer Senator to name this legislation after than DAN COATS of Indiana who has worked so tirelessly on these issues.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, it is my pleasure to come to the floor of the Senate today to inform my colleagues of something very special that happened this morning during the committee's mark-up of S. 2206, the Human Services Reauthorization Act.

The Human Services Act, as many of my colleagues know, authorizes a number of important programs, such as Head Start and the various activities under the Community Services Block Grant that provide services to families and communities in need. For the past 30 years, the State, local and federal governments have worked jointly under this program to help lift our most vulnerable citizens out of poverty and into self-sufficiency—one of the most noble goals of a responsible government. Moreover, the programs in the Human Services Act has done this effectively, and with widespread community involvement.

In the Labor and Human Resources Committee, the Subcommittee on Children and Families—which is chaired by our colleague, Senator DAN COATS of Indiana—has been responsible for much of the heavy lifting that has to be done as these programs make their way through our committee for the fifth time in the last twenty years. The Human Services Act is a large and very important act, so its reauthorization is never an easy process, especially in a committee as diverse as ours. While broad bipartisan support for the reauthorization bill is always a desirable goal, it is never a given. And this year, Senator COATS worked overtime to make sure that his bill would not only responsibly reauthorize the Human Services Act, but would also do so in a way which accommodated the concerns and requests of members on both sides of the aisle. Consequently, the Labor and Human Resources Committee approved the reauthorization of the Human Services Act by a unanimous vote of 18 to 0.

But Mr. President, I am not here today to make my pitch for the reauthorization of the Human Services Act—that will come soon enough. Rather, I want to highlight Senator COATS' hard work on this legislation. It is yet another illustrative example of the years of service that Senator DAN COATS has committed to strengthening families, strengthening children, and strengthening communities. It is typical of Senator COATS that he does so in a manner that is always tenacious, but never brash. While he is always accommodating, he never loses sight of the ultimate goal of helping families and communities. And with his quiet demeanor and a wit that I think sometimes surprises even him, Senator COATS is always a pleasure to work with, especially when it is for a com-

mon goal, as it was in this morning's mark-up.

As we all know, Senator COATS has announced he will not be returning to this body when his term expires at the end of the 105th Congress. However, his departure does not mean his voice on behalf of children and families will be any quieter. Senator COATS will move into a new leadership role as President of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the USA. This is a program that I know is very near to Senator COATS' heart, and the Senate's loss is clearly Big Brothers/Big Sisters' gain.

In the Labor Committee, and in the Senate as a whole, we will miss DAN COATS. We will miss his leadership, and we will miss his friendship. When someone who is such a good friend leaves, it is sometimes difficult to know just what to give that friend of yours as a token of your affection. Well, Mr. President, at this morning's mark-up of the Human Services reauthorization, we gave it a try.

It is with real pleasure that I inform the Senate that this morning the Labor and Human Resources Committee unanimously agreed to name the 1998 reauthorization of the Human Services Act as the "Community Opportunities, Accountability, Training and Educational Services Act," or, as we prefer to call it, the COATS Act. We did this in recognition of all that Senator COATS has done not only on this bill, but for children and families throughout his career.

Mr. President, I know there will be more time later to honor Senator COATS for all that he has done here in the Senate. But sometimes time gets away from us and we never let some of our colleagues know how much they mean to us. The action by the Labor Committee this morning is a modest gesture, but a sincere one. I think Senator COATS knows that it is from all of our hearts. We shall miss you, Senator.

DEATH OF A GREAT IRISH-AMERICAN—PAUL O'DWYER

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I was greatly saddened to learn of the death today of Paul O'Dwyer of New York City. To all of us who knew him and worked with him and loved him, he was a great friend, a great champion of democracy and civil rights, a great friend of working families, and a great friend of Ireland. He will be dearly missed.

Paul was born in County Mayo in Ireland, and immigrated to the United States in 1924 at the age of seventeen. He put himself through law school at night, and formed his lifelong commitment to the political and social causes which were so important to him and for which we all admired him.

He was a proud supporter of Ireland all his life. He was a hero to the people of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and to Irish Americans as well. At the same time, he recognized the importance of reaching out to the Protestant community in Northern Ireland to achieve

peace and reconciliation in that troubled land, and he always insisted on meeting with Protestant leaders visiting this country.

Paul was elected to a number of offices in his long and brilliant career, including President of the New York City Council. Once, when asked about his decision to come to America as an immigrant, Paul said "I thought of going back, but something that grips you as an immigrant is the sense of freedom here." As few individuals have ever done, he worked hard and long and well to provide that freedom for all Americans. We will miss his leadership, and we will miss his friendship.

PASSAGE OF A+ SAVINGS ACCOUNT BILL

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent this morning and I missed the vote on the Conference Report for H.R. 1882 the A+ Savings Account for Public and Private Schools.

I am pleased that this bill was approved by the Senate by a vote of 59-36. This legislation has my wholehearted support.

Several significant reforms in the bill are based, in part, on findings of a Senate Task Force on Education that I was privileged to be a part of. These include testing and merit pay incentives of teachers, and tax incentives for parents who save for their children's K-12 education needs.

The President should look at the merits of this bill and sign it into law. It is time that the federal government stops enabling an entrenched education bureaucracy that resists every attempt at exponential change.

New Mexicans, I believe, are ready to embrace such change, and this legislation is the vehicle to begin making our schools ready for the twenty-first century.

I am pleased this bill includes a provision to provide incentive funds to states that establish periodic assessments of elementary and secondary school teachers, including a merit pay system to reward teachers based on merit and proven performance. The provision permits the use of federal education dollars to establish and administer these programs.

Teacher testing and merit pay is an important philosophical shift. It is reasonable to expect teachers to know the subject matter they are responsible for imparting to our young people.

The centerpiece of the bill is the establishment of tax-free savings accounts that can be used for qualified education expenses from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Main provisions in the bill, beyond the merit pay and block grant provisions, are:

A+ Savings Accounts.—These accounts are similar to the current Education IRA for college tuition. Under this bill, the annual contribution limit will be increased from \$500 to \$2,000 a year. This gives millions of families the

opportunity to save tax-free for their children's education.

Extend employer-provided education benefits to 1 million employees.—The bill extends this popular provision that allows employees to accept employer-provided education assistance without having to declare it as income (up to \$5,250 a year). The tax exclusion will apply to assistance for undergraduate courses.

Allow 1 million students to benefit from tax-free state pre-paid tuition plans.—Many states have established pre-paid tuition plans to make it more affordable to attend state colleges in the future, and to help families save for this important expenses. The bill goes a step beyond tax deferral of such savings as currently allowed—this bill makes such savings tax-free. (The New Mexico legislature is expected to consider a pre-paid tuition plan.)

School Construction: Assists local governments in issuing tax-exempt bonds for school construction by increasing the small-issuer exception from \$10 million to \$15 million, provided that at least \$10 million of the bonds are issued to finance public schools.

Health Scholarships: Provides tax-free treatment for National Health Corps Scholarships. In addition, the conferees extended tax free treatment to Hebert Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarships.

Student Improvement Incentive Awards: Allows State education agencies to make awards to public schools that demonstrate a high level of academic achievement.

State Incentives for Teacher Testing and Merit Pay: Authorizes the Department of Education to provide awards to states that test their K-12 teachers every three to five years in the subjects they teach and that have a merit pay program.

Same Gender Schools and Classrooms: Allows federal funding for education reform projects that provide same-gender schools and classrooms, as long as comparable opportunities are afforded both sexes.

Reading Excellence: Authorizes a literacy program that focuses on training teachers to teach reading using scientifically proven methods such as phonics. The President supports the program and \$210 million was appropriated by Congress last year to establish a literacy program.

Safer Schools: Includes language providing that weapons brought to school are admissible as evidence in any internal school disciplinary proceedings.

I genuinely hope that the President will sign this bill.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, June 23, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,500,927,020,489.88 (Five trillion, five hundred billion, nine hundred twenty-seven million, twenty thousand, four

hundred eighty-nine dollars and eighty-eight cents).

One year ago, June 23, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,332,782,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred thirty-two billion, seven hundred eighty-two million).

Five years ago, June 23, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,302,429,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred two billion, four hundred twenty-nine million).

Ten years ago, June 23, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,527,068,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred twenty-seven billion, sixty-eight million).

Fifteen years ago, June 23, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,303,239,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred three billion, two hundred thirty-nine million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,197,688,020,489.88 (Four trillion, one hundred ninety-seven billion, six hundred eighty-eight million, twenty thousand, four hundred eighty-nine dollars and eighty-eight cents) during the past 15 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting one withdrawal and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3853. An act to promote drug-free workplace programs.

H.R. 4105. An act to establish a national policy against state and local interference with interstate commerce on the Internet, to exercise congressional jurisdiction over interstate commerce by establishing a moratorium on the imposition of exactions that would interfere with the free flow of commerce via the internet, to establish a national policy against Federal and State regulation of Internet access and online services, and for other purposes.

The message also announced the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2069. An act to permit the mineral leasing Indian land located within the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in any case in which there is a consent from a majority interest in the parcel of land under consideration for lease.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill, previously received from the House of Representatives for the concurrence of the Senate,